U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

NEWS

VOL. XVII, No. 10 Bethesda 14, Maryland OCTOBER 1962

BIOMEDICAL SERIALS CLAIMING PROJECT

Since its publication late in April Biomedical Serials, 1950-1960: a Selective List of Serials in the National Library of Medicine, compiled by Lela M. Spanier, has received a warm welcome from medical librarians the world over. Reports indicate that it is used extensively and variously in acquisition, reference, circulation, and cataloging operations. Its use is by no means limited to libraries beyond the NLM walls. In addition to the more conventional applications, the National Library of Medicine is currently engaged in a large-scale claiming project directly utilizing the entries contained in Biomedical Serials.

It will be recalled that Biomedical Serials lists 8,939 serials, that these represent mainly substantive titles held by NLM for the decade 1950-60, and that of this total 3,228 titles were presumably dead (i.e., no issue later than 1958 was held at the time of editing). These were indicated by a dot symbol (.) preceding the title, while another symbol, the dagger (†) indicated major gaps in holdings regardless of when the latest issue had been received.

The Library was concerned with the fate of these "dotted" and "daggered" entries for reasons of both acquisition and bibliographical completeness. In some cases this fate was already evident: the publication had ceased, had changed its title, or was officially suspended. In other cases, as might be expected, later issues were received after Biomedical Serials was compiled. Taking these factors into account the 3,228 "dotted" entries dwindled to 1,612 which represented true question-marks. In addition, there were 368 of the "daggered" entries, to make the total 1,980 titles about which the Library needed definite information and, in many cases, missing issues.

A form sheet, which included a photographic reproduction of the entry itself from Biomedical Serials and various other information (e.g., the address, latest issue received, and any lacking issues), was prepared for each title. This data sheet was then sent to the publisher or sponsoring body

of each title, together with a letter asking that the data sheet be checked, updated, and returned, and whether any of the issues listed as lacking were still available.

Approximately 2,000 letters and accompanying data sheets were sent out in July and August; the response thus far has been most gratifying. As of September 15 about 375 replies had been received, with those from foreign addressees steadily increasing. In many instances the returned data sheets have corroborated the suspicion that the presumably dead entries are indeed dead. In a hundred cases thus far the presumably dead title has proved to be still flourishing. The statements of availability of missing issues prompted more than 75 order actions; many such issues have been supplied without charge.

Almost always the returns provide data which enables the Library to update its records. The serial checkers and catalogers, particularly, benefit from such first-hand information as closing dates and numbers, mergers, changes of title, etc. But there is also a variety of incidental benefits: data on changes of address and sponsorship, notices of new publications, requests for exchange arrangements.

It is hoped that a majority of the letters of inquiry sent out will in time be answered. The bibliographical data thus acquired will be transmitted in one way or another to the entire community of medical librarianship.

REGIONAL REPORT CENTERS

The National Science Foundation and the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce have designated twelve universities and libraries as Regional Technical Report Centers to receive unclassified technical reports of Federally-sponsored research and development, with appropriate bibliographic and reference publications, and to furnish in their respective geographical regions reference, interlibrary loan, and photocopy service. The twelve Centers and the regions they cover are:

Atlanta, Georgia	- Georgia Institute of Technology (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee)
Cambridge, Mass.	- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)
Chicago, Illinois	- John Crerar Library (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin)
Dallas, Texas	- Southern Methodist University (Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)

Boulder, Colorado	- University of Colorado (Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)
Kansas City, Mo.	- Linda Hall Library (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
Los Angeles, Calif.	- University of California, Los Angeles (Arizona, southern California)
New York, New York	- Columbia University (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York)
Pittsburgh, Pa.	- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia)
San Francisco, Calif.	- University of California, Berkeley (Hawaii, Nevada, northern California)
Seattle, Washington	- University of Washington (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington)
Washington, D.C.	- Library of Congress (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia)

These Regional Technical Report Centers will handle AEC, NASA, and Department of Defense reports.

CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY, USSR

Meditsinskii Rabotnik, July 18, 1961, carried a drawing of the exterior of the new building for the Central Medical Library in Moscow, with the following report: "The building plan was drawn up by the staff of the Tenth Workshop of the Institute 'Mosproject,' the architects being V.K. Iurkevich, S.S. Oraevskaia, G.N. Khristenko, Ing. V. Karapetian, and Technologist F.N. Pashchenko. ... Wooded roads lead to the main entrance. On the first floor is the Order Department and the Reference Department. The elevators bring you to the reading rooms where 750 persons may study at the same time. The reading rooms are planned in such a way that the books are brought as close as possible to the reader, with about one-fifth of all the literature on open shelves with mobile shelving. Requests will be submitted by means of phototelegraph. This will considerably speed up the delivery of books from the stacks to the reader. The stacks will have capacity for 2.5 million volumes. ... The proper temperature and humidity will be maintained by airconditioning. ..."

DEATHS OF FRIENDS

Mr. Henry Schuman of New York City, well-known dealer in rare scientific books, died on September 19. Mrs. Henrietta T. Perkins, Assistant Librarian of the Yale Medical Library, died on September 26.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, FISCAL YEAR 1962

During the year which ended June 30, 1962, the National Library of Medicine:

ACQUIRED	11,338	books
	63,959	serial pieces
	739	new serial titles
PURCHASED	147	old and rare items for the History of Medicine Collection
CATALOGED	17,257	titles, of which 5,538 were recataloged works
WITHDREW	1,508	duplicate and out-of-scope items
BOUND	17,692	volumes, of which 3,911 were rebinds
PREPARED	20,260	main entries for the 1961 volume of the National Library of Medicine Catalog
ADDED	473	pictures and other items to the Prints and Photographs Collection
CIRCULATED	161,090	volumes
ANSWERED	10,242	reference questions
FILLED	113,485	interlibrary loan requests, of which 6,518 were filled with loan of original material
FILMED	2,840,400	pages, of which 570,662 were for preservation
PRODUCED	2,266,144	pages of photoprint and
	233,815	paper cards
PUBLISHED	141,911	items in the Index Medicus from 2,132 journal titles
SPENT	$1,869,789	for library operations
EMPLOYED		an average work force of 209 persons

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960

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